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**From:** Overbey, Dian [Overbey.Dian@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 5/25/2021 4:52:01 PM  
**To:** Ozmen, Shamus [Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov]; Cyran, Carissa [Cyran.Carissa@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Rosenblatt, Daniel [Rosenblatt.Dan@epa.gov]; Reaves, Elissa [Reaves.Elissa@epa.gov]; Vogel, Dana [Vogel.Dana@epa.gov]; Matuszko, Jan [Matuszko.Jan@epa.gov]; Kiely, Timothy [Kiely.Timothy@epa.gov]; Colby, Deanna [colby.deanna@epa.gov]; Arrington, Linda [Arrington.Linda@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Overbey, Dian shared "DTN Press Inquiry - Treated Seed" with you.

**Importance:** High

Hi All.

I need to wrap this press inquiry up so it can continue the review process and go to the OPP IO. This is what I am sending forward.

### **DTN Press Inquiry on Treated Seed**

#### **INCOMING:**

DTN is working on a series of stories on the environmental crisis unfolding in Mead, Nebraska, due to mismanagement of discarded treated seed. One part of the coverage will focus on what is happening specifically at AltEn in Mead. Another part will take a broader look at the use of treated seed in the agricultural industry over the past 10 to 15 years.

1. **NDEE has said EPA is involved now in the Mead situation. What exactly is EPA's role in the cleanup? Is the agency considering designating AltEn has a Superfund site?**

**RESPONSE:** OPP cannot answer. Send to OLEM and the Region.

2. **Seed treatments fall under the treated article exemption in FIFRA. How exactly are pesticides used in seed treatments tracked, monitored or managed differently by EPA (as opposed to foliar-applied pesticides) as a result? (RD)**

## **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

3. **Does the treated article exemption continue to apply for EPA when the pesticides in the treated seed were concentrated in both the water and the solid waste produced at AltEn? Does EPA still maintain this situation falls under the treated seed exemption?**

## **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

4. **Does EPA have any information on how much treated seed is discarded each year by industry? Does EPA have any data or research on how pesticide-coated seed can be disposed of safely?**

## **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

5. **Does EPA know where all the seed industry's discarded treated seed goes – to what facilities and in what amounts? Is there any federal monitoring of amounts of discarded pesticide-coated seed**

(like the huge amounts going to AltEn) or any monitoring of water and soils near facilities that dispose of treated seed?

RESPONSE:

## **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

6. Does EPA know how much pesticides (both insecticides and fungicides) are applied each year via seed treatment? If not, how can the agency correctly produce risk assessments for human health and the environment for seed treatment active ingredient registrations, such as the recent reviews of neonicotinoids?

## **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

7. Do EPA's risk assessments for the fungicides and insecticides found on treated seed consider the acute and chronic risks to humans and the environment from treated seed disposal methods? Do they consider the possibility of large accumulations of treated seed in landfills and other disposal facilities?

## **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

8. Is EPA aware of the growing research, including some from USGS scientists, on how frequently neonicotinoids are found in American waterways? Was this data used in EPA's most recent registration reviews of neonicotinoids? Does EPA know what this level of regular human exposure to neonicotinoids means for human health?
9. Is EPA doing any research on how frequently fungicide seed treatments might be found or persisting in American waterways and soil? Does EPA have any data on how regular exposure to these active ingredients might mean for human health?

## **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

# Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

10. Will EPA reconsider the treated article exemption for treated seed, in light of the situation in Mead, Nebraska, the growing data on neonicotinoids found in water, and the continued lack of data on how much pesticides are applied via seed treatments? Or will seed treatments continue to be exempted from full EPA regulation?

## Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

11. What is the status of a petition for EPA to more fully regulate treated seed, submitted in 2017? (<https://www.epa.gov/petitions/petition-regulate-coated-seeds-under-fifra>)

# Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

**From:** Overbey, Dian

**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 2:58 PM

**To:** Rosenblatt, Daniel <Rosenblatt.Dan@epa.gov>; Reaves, Elissa <Reaves.Elissa@epa.gov>; Vogel, Dana <Vogel.Dana@epa.gov>; Matuszko, Jan <Matuszko.Jan@epa.gov>

**Subject:** Overbey, Dian shared "DTN Press Inquiry - Treated Seed" with you.



## Overbey, Dian shared a file with you

Hi All,

We have a press inquiry from DTN on the situation in Mead, Nebraska, where there is a huge mound of waste from seeds treated with neonicotinoids and fungicides that are used to make biofuels. OPP doesn't have a lot of information, but these are the responses we have come up with.

If I could have your feedback by noon tomorrow (Tuesday), that would be wonderful!

Thanks,

Dian



DTN Press Inquiry - Treated Seed



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